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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senate Passes Leading on Lead Act

Madison, WI...Today, a bill to remove and replace lead service lines, authored by Senator Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) and co-sponsored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) passed on the Senate floor with bipartisan support.

Wisconsin is estimated to have 170,000 lead service lines, with over 8,000 in Marathon County alone, and some of the highest rates of lead poisoning in the nation. The Leading on Lead Act addresses one of the largest public health concerns that Wisconsin families face.

“Our hope is to work together to reduce the level of lead in Wisconsin drinking water down to zero,” said Senator Petrowski. “To that end, this bill effectively balances the needs of residents, local governments, and utility providers to resolve this issue, and I hope to see it signed into law promptly.”

The Leading on Lead Act, Senate Bill 48, provides a funding mechanism for communities to address lead contamination in drinking water. This bill allows a municipal government to pass an ordinance to ask the Public Service Commission for the authority to use ratepayer dollars for a low or no-interest loan, or a grant to help private property owners cover up to 50 percent of the cost to replace their lead service lines.

Senate Bill 48 was previously passed in the Senate, but as a result of a conflicting Assembly amendment, the Senate voted for final passage today. The Leading on Lead Act now heads to the Governor to be signed into law.

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